THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) At present, the five regional power grids in the country are being monitored round the clock on real time basis by Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs). The monitoring at State level is done by the State Load Despatch Centres (SLDCs). Central Transmission Utility, POWERGRID has completed its state-of-the-art Unified Load Despatch and Communication (ULDC) facilities in Northern and Southern Regions. Similar facilities are under implementation in Eastern, North-Eastern and Western Regions also. The ULDCs for the country would be completed by February, 2005. The ULDC schemes will ensure improved system security, reliability and avoidance/minimisation of grid disturbances/failure and quick restoration during grid disturbance/ failure.

The Electricity Bill, 2001 envisages creation of a National Load Despatch Centre for optimum scheduling and despatch of electricity among the Regional Load Despatch Centres. The details of this National Load Despatch Centre are, however, still being worked out.

Status of Dabhol Power Plant

1497. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Dabhol Power Plant of Maharashtra;

(b) by when Government propose to start production of power from this Plant;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what would be per unit cost of power generated by this Plant; and

(e) whether it is proposed to supply surplus power to neighbouring States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Phase-I of the Dabhol Plant (740 MW) has been shut down after the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) stopped taking power from 29th May, 2001, following disputes with Dabhol Power Company (DPC). Construction work on Phase-II (1444 MW) has also been stopped.

(b) to (d) The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) in regard to the Dabhol Power Project was entered into between MSEB and DPC. Thus, the responsibility to restart Phase-I and complete Phase-II lies with the main stakeholders viz. MSEB and DPC as well as the Government of Maharashtra (GOM). The Indian Financial Institutions led by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) having substantial stakes in the Dabhol Power Project have been trying to restructure and revive the Dabhol plant. Government of India has agreed to facilitate any amicable solution to the various isses in order to revive/restructure the project. any scheme finalised for revival of the Dabhol project would come as a comprehensive package and would have to resolve complex, legal, financial and technical issues. While this may take time, as a first step, it has been agreed that an interim revival package for restarting Phase-I be worked out by the concerned agencies. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has agreed to act as Operation & Maintenance Contractor for running Phase-I. a team involving representatives from NTPC, M/s. GE India, M/s. Bechtel, IDBI, MSEB and Central Electricity Authority carried out a preliminary inspection of the Dabhol power plant from October, 28-30, 2002 to ascertain its condition and to work out an action plan for restart of Phase-I. During the visit, it was found, *inter-alia*, that the plant and equipments had generally been maintained well by the firm appointed by the Court receiver for maintenance and preservation of the assets. However, a more detailed assessment and internal inspection of the equipment is felt necessary so as to ascertain the time frame for restarting the plant as well as the likely expenditure involved.

Government of Maharashtra has taken a decision to allow MSEB to draw power from Phase-I at an optimum level of 83% at a tariff of about Rs.2.80/KWH on an interim basis, subject to approval of Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) and high Court of Maharashtra which has appointed a receiver for the project and without prejudice to MSEB/GOM's rights and contentions in the pending arbitration/judicial and Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) proceedings. In a recent communication, GOM have stressed on the need to restart Phase-I of the Dabhol plant at the earliest keeping in view the acute power crisis being faced by the State. The issue was also discussed at a meeting with GOM held at Mumbai on 1st March, 2003.

(e) Under the proposed scheme mentioned above, the power generated from Phase-I would be absorbed by MSEB.